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EXAMINER

HUYNH, CONG LAC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/864,628

Applicant(s)

BAUCHOT, FREDERIC

Examiner

Cong-Lac Huynh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: amendment filed 9/28/04 to the application filed on 5/23/01, priority 10/24/00.
2. Claims 1-8 are canceled.
3. Claims 9-28 are added.
4. Claims 9-28 are pending in the case. Claims 9, 20, 28 are the independent claims.
5. The rejections of claims 3-7 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, have been withdrawn in view of the cancellation of claims 1-8.

Priority

6. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

7. The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).

There are two claims 22. Thus, the second claim 22 is misnumbered.

Accordingly, claims 22-28 are misnumbered. Misnumbered claims 22-28 have been renumbered 23-29.

8. Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informalities: The word "past" within ".. to select the single **copy-past** operation or the persistent copy-paste operation" (lines 2-3) is a typographical error. Correction is required.

9. Claim 29 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word "rage" within ".. a break-paste command that breaks a relationship previously established between the source **rage** of cells and the destination range of cells" (lines 7-8) is a typographical error. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 9-10, 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madsen et al. (US Pat No. 6,317,758 B1, 11/13/01, filed 2/20/98) in view of Lowry et al. (US Pat No. 6,579,324 B1, 6/17/03, filed 4/30/99).

Regarding independent claim 9 and its dependent claim 19, Madsen discloses:

- selecting a source range of cells in an electronic spreadsheet (**col 6, lines 26-44:** a cell or a range of cells is selected)
- creating a persistent copy of cells that are in the source range of cells (**col 6, lines 26-44:** apply the copy command on the selected cell or cells)
- pasting the persistent copy of cells into a destination range of cells (**col 6, lines 26-44:** use Paste command to copy the content in the clipboard to the selected destination cell or cells)

Madsen does not disclose:

- applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells that indicates that the destination range of cells contains a copy of the persistent copy of cells

Lowry discloses:

- applying a visual appearance attribute to a selected range of cells that indicates a range of cells (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28: the shade is applied on the selected cells)

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made modified Lowry to apply the visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells since the selected range of cells with a visual appearance attribute suggests that a visual appearance attribute can be *applied on any selected range of cells* such as a destination range of cells since the destination range of cells is selected for pasting data and contains the copy of source range of cells.

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses applying the visual appearance attribute to a range of cells providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the visual appearance attribute on the selected cells since the destination range of cells is merely the selected cells for pasting data and contains the copy of the selected source range of cells.

Regarding claim 10, which is dependent on claim 9, Madsen does not disclose applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells indicating that the persistent copy of cells has been created.

Lowry discloses applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28: the shade is applied on the selected cells).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made modified Lowry to apply the visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells since the selected range of cells with a visual appearance attribute suggests that a visual appearance attribute can be *applied on any selected range of cells* such as a source range of cells since the source range of cells is *selected range of cells for copying data to a destination range of cells*.

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses applying the visual appearance attribute to a range of cells providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the visual appearance attribute on the selected cells since the

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source range of cells is merely the selected cells for copying data to a destination range of cells.

Regarding claim 12, which is dependent on claim 9, Madsen discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.

Lowry discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is a background pattern (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is the background pattern providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the background pattern on the selected cells such as a source range of cells or a destination of cells as an indication of these special cells.

Regarding claim 13, which is dependent on claim 10, Madsen discloses that the source visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.

Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a background pattern (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is the background pattern providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the background pattern on the selected cells such as a source range of cells or a destination of cells as an indication of these special cells.

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Regarding claim 14, which is dependent on claim 9, Madsen discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is a background color.

Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a background color (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28, col 3, line 52 to col 4, line 15).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is the background color providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the background color on the selected cells such as a source range of cells or a destination of cells as an indication of the special functions of these cells.

Regarding claim 15, which is dependent on claim 10, Madsen discloses that the source visual appearance attribute is a background color.

Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a background color (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28, col 3, line 52 to col 4, line 15).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is the background color providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the background color on the selected cells such as a source range of cells or a destination of cells as an indication of the special functions of these cells.

Regarding claim 16, which is dependent on claim 9, Madsen does not disclose that the destination visual appearance attribute is a font style.

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Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a font style (col 9, line 62 to col 10, line 5, figure 2: the visual attribute of the cells is a font style such as bold or italic).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute of a cell is a font style providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying a desired font style on the destination cells for indicating a special characteristic of these cells.

Regarding claim 17, which is dependent on claim 10, Madsen discloses that the source visual appearance attribute is a font style.

Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a font style (col 9, line 62 to col 10, line 5, figure 2: the visual attribute of the cells is a font style such as bold or italic).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a font style providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying a desired font style on the source cells for indicating of the special characteristics of these cells.

Regarding claim 18, which is dependent on claim 9, Madsen discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is a font color.

Lowry discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is a font color (col 10, lines 19-25).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a font color providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying a desired font color on the destination cells for indicating of the special characteristics of these cells.

12. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madsen et al. (US Pat No. 6,317,758 B1, 11/13/01, filed 2/20/98) in view of Lowry et al. (US Pat No. 6,579,324 B1, 6/17/03, filed 4/30/99) and further in view of Norden-Paul et al. (US Pat No. 5,247,611, 9/21/93).

Regarding claim 11, which is dependent on claim 10, Madsen and Lowry do not disclose that the source visual appearance blinks if the persistent copy of cells is a most recently pasted group of cells to have pasted into a destination range of cells in the electronic spreadsheet.

Norden-Paul discloses that the visual appearance blinks in the cells of the electronic spreadsheet as an indicator of notation in a cell, an indicator of a correction/change in a cell, or an error in a cell (col 6, lines 49-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Norden-Paul to incorporate the blinking indicator for indicating that the persistent copy of cells is a most recently pasted group of cells into a destination range of cells for the following reason. Using the blinking indicator in a cell

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for indicating a notation, a correction, or an error in a cell in Norden-Paul suggests using the blinking indicator for indicating that the blinking cells be the most recent pasted group of cells to have pasted into a destination range of cells since by defining the blinking indicator for the most recently pasted group of cells, such blinking indicator is a form of indicating a notation of said group of cells.

Also, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Lowry with Madsen for providing an easy way to user for recognizing the special cells with special attributes among the other cells of the spreadsheet via the blinking feature.

13. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madsen et al. (US Pat No. 6,317,758 B1, 11/13/01, filed 2/20/98) in view of Yarnell et al. (US Pat No. 5,359,729, 10/25/94).

Regarding independent claim 20, Madsen discloses:

- selecting a source range of cells in an electronic spreadsheet (**col 6, lines 26-44: a cell or a range of cells is selected**)
- creating a persistent copy of cells that are in the source range of cells (**col 6, lines 26-44: apply the copy command on the selected cell or cells**)
- pasting the persistent copy of cells into a destination range of cells (**col 6, lines 26-44: use Paste command to copy the content in the clipboard to the selected destination cell or cells**)

Madsen does not disclose:

- storing the source range of cells and the destination range of cells in a persistent copy-paste table in a non-volatile memory

Yarnell discloses:

- storing a specific range of cells with the associated attributes in a table in a non-volatile memory (figure 2, col 2, line 65 to col 3, line 26, col 5, line 31 to col 6, line 36)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Yarnell to store the source range of cells and the destination range of cells in a persistent copy-paste table in a non-volatile memory for the following reason. Storing a specific range in a table suggests storing a source range of cells or a destination range of cells in a persistent copy-paste table since the source range of cells or the destination range of cells is merely a specific range of cells, and the persistent copy-paste table is merely a name of a table with data for a specific purpose. Further, the table, when created, must be stored in the memory of a computer which is a non-volatile memory.

Also, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Yarnell into Madsen since Yarnell suggests storing a source range of cells and a destination range of cells in a table in a non-volatile memory providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for improving the data manipulation of electronic spreadsheet by including the attribute tables separately from the cell data for storing attributes associated with each type of ranges of cells.

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14. Claims 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madsen et al. (US Pat No. 6,317,758 B1, 11/13/01, filed 2/20/98) in view of Yarnell et al. as applied to claim 20 above and further in view of Lowry et al. (US Pat No. 6,579,324 B1, 6/17/03, filed 4/30/99).

Regarding claim 21, which is dependent on claim 20, Madsen and Yarnell do not disclose:

- applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells indicating that the destination range of cells contains a content of the persistent copy of cells
- applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells indicating that the persistent copy of cells has been created

Lowry discloses:

- applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells indicating that the destination range of cells contains a content of the persistent copy of cells (**col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28**: the shade is applied on the selected cells)
- applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells indicating that the persistent copy of cells has been created (**col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28**: the shade is applied on the selected cells)

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses applying the visual

appearance attribute to a range of cells providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the visual appearance attribute on the selected cells since the source range of cells or the destination range of cells is merely the selected cells for copying data to the destination range of cells and pasting data and contains the copy of the selected source range of cells.

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses applying the visual appearance attribute to a range of cells providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for obtaining an easy recognizing a special cell or a special range of cells via applying the visual appearance attribute on a source range of cells or a destination range of cells.

Regarding claim 22, which is dependent on claim 21, Madsen does not disclose discloses storing the destination visual appearance attribute and the source visual appearance attribute in the non-volatile memory.

Lowry discloses storing the destination visual appearance attribute and the source visual appearance attribute in the non-volatile memory (col 7, lines 36-49).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Lowry into Madsen for having the destination visual appearance attributes as well as the source visual appearance attribute stored in the non-volatile memory to apply later on for the operations that are involved with the source cells and the destination cells.

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Regarding claim 23, which is dependent on claim 20, Madsen discloses:

- using a copy-paste manager to control copy and paste operations in the electronic spreadsheet, the copy-paste manager allowing a user of the electronic spreadsheet to select:
 - o a single copy-paste operation between a source reference range of cells and one or more destination ranges of cells that is to be performed only once (col 6, lines 26-44)
 - o a persistent copy-paste operation between the source reference range of cells and one or more destination ranges may be performed multiple times using the persistent copy of cells (col 6, lines 26-44: it was obvious that applying the copy command and the paste command repetitively on the source range of cells and one or more destination range of cells would cause a persistent copy of cells)

Regarding claim 24, which is dependent on claim 21, Madsen discloses comprising a Graphical Use Interface (GUI) that illustrates options to the user to select the single copy-past operation or the persistent (col 6, lines 26-44).

Regarding claim 25, which is dependent on claim 21, Madsen does not disclose that the destination visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.

Lowry discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is a background pattern (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28).

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It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is the background pattern providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the background pattern on the selected cells such as a source range of cells or a destination of cells as an indication of these special cells.

Regarding claim 26, which is dependent on claim 21, Madsen does not disclose that the source visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.

Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a background pattern (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is the background pattern providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the background pattern on the selected cells such as a source range of cells or a destination of cells as an indication of these special cells.

Regarding claim 27, which is dependent on claim 21, Madsen discloses that the destination visual appearance attribute is a background color.

Lowry discloses that the visual appearance attribute is a background color (col 2, line 61 to col 3, line 28, col 3, line 52 to col 4, line 15).

It would have been obvious to an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made combined Lowry into Madsen since Lowry discloses that the visual appearance

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attribute is the background color providing the advantage to incorporate into Madsen for applying the background color on the selected cells such as a source range of cells or a destination of cells as an indication of the special functions of these cells.³³

Regarding claim 28, which is dependent on claim 21, Madsen discloses that the source range of cells is a single cell (col 6, lines 26-44).

Allowable Subject Matter

15. Claim 29 is objected to for including the informality, but would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection set forth in this office action.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 9-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants argue that Madsen does not teach or suggest "applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells that indicates that the destination range of cells contains a copy of the persistent copy of cells" (Remarks, page 6).

Examiner agrees.

Lowry, in combination with Madsen, discloses the argued feature (see the claim rejection above).

Applicants also argue that neither cited prior art teaches or suggests “storing the source range of cells and the destination range of cells in a persistent copy-paste table in a non-volatile memory” (Remarks, page 6).

Examiner agrees.

Yarnell, in combination with Madsen, discloses the argued feature (see the claim rejection above).

Likewise, Applicants argue that neither cited prior art teaches or suggests “storing the source range of cells and the destination range of cells in a persistent copy-paste table in a non-volatile memory” (Remarks, page 6).

Examiner agrees.

This argued feature is allowable subject matter as indicated in the Allowable Subject Matter section above.

Conclusion

17. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Suzuki (US Pat No. 6,687,875 B1, 2/3/04, filed 2/18/00).

Bauchot et al. (US Pat No. 6,725,422 B1, 4/20/04, filed 3/21/00).

Agrawal et al. (US Pat No. 6,415,305 B1, 7/2/02, filed 4/20/98).

Kiyan et al. (US Pat No. 5,970,506, 10/19/99, filed 7/1/97).

Walker et al. (US Pat App Pub No. 2002/0065848 A1, 5/30/02, filed 8/21/01, priority 8/21/00).

Computimes Malaysia, Linking Spreadsheets with Excel, Jul 12, 1999, page 1.

Cox et al., Using Visual Programming to Extend the Power of Spreadsheet Computation, ACM 1994, pages 153-161.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4125. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30-6:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Clh
1/3/05


STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER